

QUESTION #01

1- INTRODUCTION:

Aligarh movement (1958-98) was an educational and social reform movement aimed at restoring the trust between Muslims and British. It also served political purpose. As an educational movement, it focused on bridging the gap of knowledge, rationalizing religion and producing an educated middle class of Muslim community. The political underpinnings of the movement included importance of loyalty to British as survival strategy, ~~a~~ cultivating a distinct identity different from Hindus, and protection of rights of Muslim. The Aligarh movement sowed the seeds of Two Nation Theory and ~~rev~~ revived Muslim nationalism. It also created a class of modern leadership like Ali Brothers. It served as an opportunity to institutionalized politics and redefining the cultural and linguistic identity of Muslim. In short, it served a dual nature, that is, educational and political at the same time.

2- ALIGARH MOVEMENT:

The Aligarh Movement was a comprehensive effort by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. to revive the spirit of progress among Muslim community of sub-continent. The educational policy was launched in response to prevailing negative attitude and discrimination by British of Muslim after war of Independence (1857). Its objective was to acquaint the British with Indian mind and open minds of Indian Muslims towards European literature, science and technology. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. aimed to persuade Muslims to abstain from politics of agitation and focus on getting education and creating a space for them in corridors of power.

3- THE EDUCATIONAL NATURE AND FUNCTIONAL GOALS

Basically, the Aligarh movement was an educational reform movement. Its educational initiatives include creation of Scientific Society in 1864 and Muhammed Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh in 1875, which later got the status of university in 1920. The main aims of the movement were:

Educational Nature

- Bridge the Knowledge Gap
- Rationalized Religion
- Produced a Bureaucratic class

a. Bridge the Knowledge Gap:

The Aligarh movement introduced Western science and English as a language to a community which considered both as 'un-Islamic'. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan insisted that only way for Muslims to have a respectable future in sub-continent is through adapting with Western educational system.

b. Rationalized Religion:

His most important contribution was to bridge the gap between religion and science. The movement provided a naturalistic explanation of religion, showing that Islam is not far from science. But science is deeply rooted in the religion. This initiative faced a strong backlash from the Ulema of sub-continent.

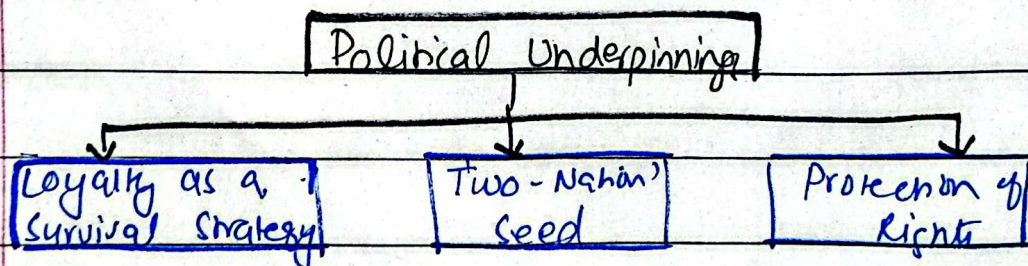
c. Produce a Bureaucratic Class:

The main purpose

of the movement was to create an educated and trained class of muslim community that can effectively secure key position in the civil services and professional roles. It aimed to ensure presence and relevancy of muslims in the administrative machinery of British India.

4. THE POLITICAL UNDER-PINNING:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan explicitly advised muslims to stay away from the politics of agitation. This was a strategic political move according to the situation. The political objective of the movement was based on:



a- Loyalty as a survival strategy:

Sir Syed advised muslims to stay loyal to British crown because he wanted the 'rebel' line associated with mutiny of 1857 removed. The strategy was

introduced to mitigate the already existing Trust gap between British Crown and Muslim.

b- Two-Nation Seed:

After the Hindi-Urdu controversy of 1867, Sir Syed realized Muslims cannot co-live with Hindus because of diverging interests. Both nations were distinct from each other. His political strategy revolved around preventing 'submerging' of Muslim under the majority of Hindus and securing their identity as a nation.

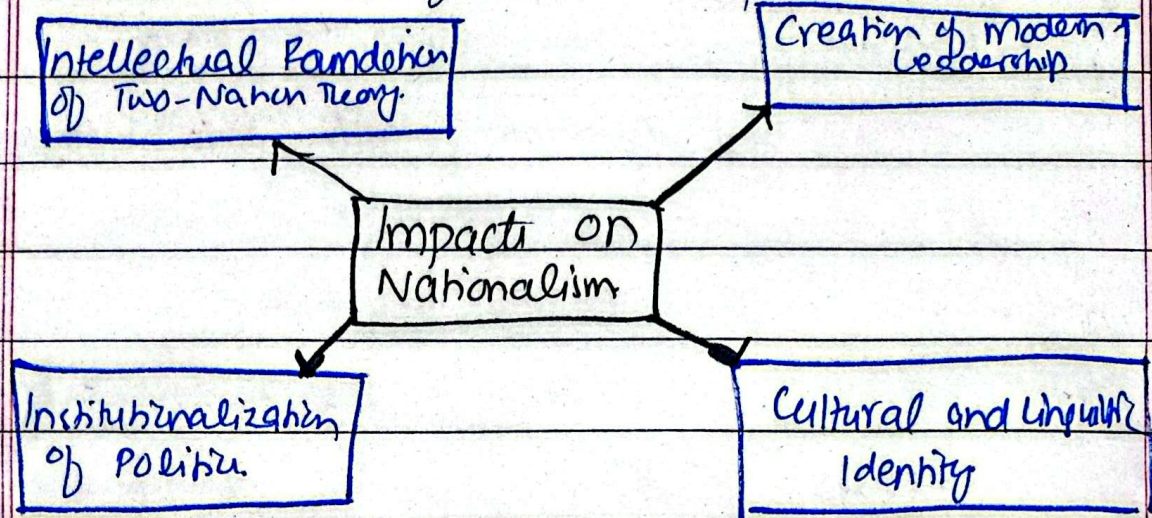
c- Protection of Rights:

The Aligarh Movement led to establishment of Anglo-Muhammadian Educational Conference in 1886. It served as platform for Muslims to express their intellectual views and raise voice for their rights. Later, this forum became the political mouthpiece of Indian Muslims.

5- IMPACT ON NATIONALISM OF MUSLIMS OF SUB-CONTINENT:

The Aligarh movement not only educated Muslims but also served as a foundation of Muslim nationalism. It fostered

a sense of 'one nation' among Muslims of Sub-continent. Its foundational impacts included:



a- Intellectual Foundation of Two-Nation Theory:

Sir Syed

was the first to use the word 'Nation' or 'Qaum' for all Muslims of subcontinent in political context. This movement provided the foundational bedrock of the Two-Nation theory which later led to the ideological base for the separate creation of Pakistan.

b- Creation of Modern Leadership:

The MAO

College became the nursery of Muslim leadership. Men like Ali Brother and Naush Viqueer-al-Mulk arose from this institute and geared to constitutional and political struggle for the

representation of Muslims in India.

c- Institutionalization of Politics:

This movement led to formation of All-India Muslim League in 1906. The people involved in creation of this representative party of Muslims were the same involved in Aligarh educational machinery.

d- Cultural and Linguistic Identity:

By the use of Urdu language and a refined Muslim culture, this movement gave Muslims a distinct cultural identity that transcended over regional ethnicities. In short, it united Muslims as a one nation and single brotherhood.

e- CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Aligarh Movement was a decisive step that steered the political awakening and educational reformation of Muslims.

It was a defensive political strategy masked as an educational reform. It was broadly criticized by the religious elements as being 'Pro-British', but it provided

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a breathing space to Muslims to rest and reflect on their strategy. It brought a sense of ~~revival~~ ~~in~~ revival in Muslims. that eventually served as an intellectual route for Muslims to demand and win a separate homeland.

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